

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 OES-02 L-01 OIC-02 IO-04 USIA-06

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FEAE-00

AID-05 CEQ-01 COME-00 EB-04 EPA-01 NSF-01 CG-00

DOT-00 ACDA-05 AEC-05 AGR-05 FMC-01 JUSE-00 OMB-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16651

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PLOS, UN, UR, US

SUBJ: LOS: CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 232115

1. EMBOFF DELIVERED OCTOBER 31 TO IGOR YAKOVLYEV, COUNSELOR FOR LOS IN MFA TREATY AND LEGAL DIVISION, NON-PAPER COVERING POINTS MADE IN REFTEL, AND STRESSED ORALLY THE DANGER OF PRESSURE IN THE U.S. FOR UNILATERAL ACTION IF PROGRESS IS NOT MADE IN 1975.

2. YAKOVLYEV SAID THAT SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT AND SPEAK IN FAVOR OF AMERASINGHE'S DRAFT RESOLUTION, INCLUDING ITS PROVISION FOR A POSSIBLE FURTHER SESSION FOLLOWIN GENEVA. HE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY ABOUT THE U.S. DESIRE TO SPECIFY THE PLACE AND DURATION OF THE SECOND SESSION IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE AMERASINGHE DRAFT, BUT SAID THAT SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT THE
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DRAFT EVEN IT IT CONTAINED SUCH SPECIFIC DATA. HE SAID

THAT THE SOVIETS UNDERSTAND THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM INVOLVED IN A SECOND SESSION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF AN EFFORT WAS MADE TO SPECIFY THAT THE FINAL CARACAS ACT SHOULD BE IN 1975, (PARAGRAPH FOUR OF THE DRAFT), THE SOVIET DELEGATION MIGHT OPPOSE OR ABSTAIN ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION.

3. YAKOVLYEV MADE CLEAR THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO IMPOSE ANY TIME PRESSURE ON MOVING THE CONFERENCE FORWARD. HIS ARGUMENT IS (1) THAT IT WOULD BE A TACTICAL MISTAKE TO TIE A VIENNA MEETING DOWN TOO PRECISELY SINCE THIS MIGHT MEAN THAT THE EARLIER GENEVA MEETING WOULD CONCENTRATE ON PROCEDURE AND IGNORE SUBSTANCE AND (2) THAT SPEED SHOULD NOT BE SOUGHT AT THE EXPENSE OF SUBSTANCE. WE COUNTERED (1) THAT THE U.S. SHARES THE SOVIET DESIRE TO MAKE THE GENEVA SESSION AS SUBSTANTIVE AS POSSIBLE, AND THE AMERASINGHE DRAFT PROVIDES FOR A SECOND MEETING ONLY IF NECESSARY AND (3) THAT OUR DESIRE FOR SPEED IS DICTATED PRECISELY BY OUR FEELING THAT DELAY WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON SUBSTANCE.

4. DURING HIS LONG AND SOMEWHAT RAMBLING DISQUISITION, YAKOVLYEV REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO THE POINT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE OPEN THE QUESTION OF A FOLLOW-ON MEETING TO GENEVA. HE SAID THAT, IF THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS AT GENEVA, THEN AN EARLY VIENNA MEETING WOULD PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA. IF, HOWEVER, THERE IS A BLOCKING EFFORT AT GENEVA AND THINGS TURN NEGATIVE, IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO HAVE A COOLING-OFF PERIOD, DURING WHICH THERE COULD BE A NEW ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS, BEFORE ANOTHER MEETING. THE BURDEN OF YAKOVLYEV'S SONG WAS THAT A SHOW OF HASTE WOULD ONLY DAMAGE LOS PROGRESS. YAKOVLYEV ENDED BY SAYING THAT THE SOVIETS ARE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT A SECOND SUBSTANTIVE SESSION IN 1975 BUT WOULD PREFER TO SEEN HOW THINGS GO AT GENEVA BEFORE DECIDING.

5. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION FROM THIS SOMEWHAT IMPRECISE CONVERSATION THAT OUR DIFFERENCES WITH THE SOVIETS ARE PRIMARILY TACTICAL. THEY CLAIM TO WANT A SOLIDLY SUBSTANTIVE GENEVA ROUND AND TO HAVE NOTHING AGAINST SPEED AS LONG AS IT IS NOT BOUGHT AT THE PRICE OF SUBSTANTIVE

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CONCESSIONS. THEY DO SEEM TO FEEL THAT OVERT PRESSURE FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. YAKOVLYEV INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET EXPERTS IN NEW YORK HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THE AMERASINGHE DRAFT. WE RECOMMEND THAT USUN, IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, CONTACT FELIKS KOVALEV, MFA TREATY AND LEGAL DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF, WHO IS NOW IN NEW YORK FOR THE UNGA LOS CONSIDERATION, AND REINFORCE THE AGRGUMENTS WE HAVE MADE HERE.

STOESSEL

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